

Application No. 09/608,135
Amendment dated September 26, 2005
Reply to Final Office Action dated May 26, 2005
Express Mail EV723448119US

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for collecting network usage data about users accessing a network and resources thereon without associating personally identifiable information with the usage data comprising:

obtaining an identifier at a network service provider representing one or more users of a computer network;

creating an anonymized identifier at the network service provider using the obtained identifier;

collecting data being transmitted across the computer network at a collection engine connected to the network service provider;

associating the anonymized identifier with the collected data through the collection engine if the collected data is sent to or from the one or more users to create a transaction record; and

storing the transaction record by the collection engine in a database separate from the network service provider.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the obtained identifier is a Mobile Subscriber Integrated Services Digital Network (MSISDN) number.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the obtained identifier is a static Internet Protocol (IP) address.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the anonymized identifier is created by applying a one-way hashing function to the obtained identifier.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the anonymized identifier is created by applying a one-way hashing function to the obtained identifier and a security key.

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6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the one-way hashing function is the Secure Hashing Algorithm 1 (SHA-1).
7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the one-way hashing function is the Message Digest 4 (MD4) algorithm.
8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the one-way hashing function is the Message Digest 5 (MD5) algorithm.
9. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the one-way hashing function is the Digital Encryption Standard (DES).
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of obtaining an identifier representing one or more users of a computer network includes:
 - receiving packets at the network service provider sent by an authentication server ~~separate from the network service provider~~ at the network service provider; and
 - extracting an identifier at the network service provider from the received packets.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the authentication server is a RADIUS authentication server.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the received packets are RADIUS authentication packets.
13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the authentication server is a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) server.

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14. (Currently Amended) A method for collecting computer network usage data about users accessing a network and resources therein without associating personally identifiable information with the usage data comprising:

identifying a user of a computer network;

creating an anonymized identifier at a network service provider representing the identified user of the computer network and said anonymized identifier being identified with a classification created by a collection engine connected to the network service provider, in a database separate from the network service provider; and

storing network transaction data associated with said anonymized identifier in accordance with said classification.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the classification is a geographical location.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the geographical location is a Census block group code.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the geographical location is a state.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the classification is a zip code.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the classification includes a telephone area code.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the classification includes a telephone exchange.

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22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the classification includes one from the group consisting of: wireless, satellite, dialup, DSL, and ISDN.
23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the classification is a job function code.
24. (Currently Amended) A method for associating anonymized identifiers, relating to users accessing a network and resources thereon, with a classification, comprising:
- obtaining an identifier, at a network service provider, representing one or more users of a computer network;
 - creating a first anonymized identifier using the obtained identifier;
 - creating a classification record by associating a classification with the first anonymized identifier through a collection engine connected to the network service provider; and
 - storing the classification record in a database separate from the network service provider.
25. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising:
- creating a second anonymized identifier using the first anonymized identifier;
 - collecting data being transmitted across the computer network;
 - associating the second anonymized identifier with the collected data if the collected data is sent to or from the one or more users to create a transaction record; and
 - storing the transaction record in a database.
26. (Currently Amended) A computer system for collecting network usage data about users accessing a network and resources thereon, without associating personally identifiable information with the usage data comprising:
- a communication port coupled to a computer network, the computer network providing access to one or more servers;
 - one or more processors; and
 - a memory containing computer instructions that

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identify a user of the computer network;
create an anonymized identifier representing the identified user of the computer network,
and said anonymized identifier being identified with a classification at a network server
provider; and
store a collection engine connected to a network service provider for storing network
transaction data associated with an anonymized identifier in accordance with said classification
in a database separate from the network service provider.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for collecting computer network usage data without
associating personally identifiable information with the usage data, comprising:

identifying a user of a computer network;
creating an anonymized identifier representing the identified user of the computer
network, and said anonymized identifier being identified with a classification which is at least
one of a zip code, telephone area code, telephone exchange, a job function code, one from the
group consisting of wireless, satellite, dialup, DSL and ISDN, and a geographical location
comprised of at least one of a Census block group code and a state; and
storing network transaction data associated with said anonymized identifier in accordance
with such classification through a collection engine connected to a network service provider
providing users access to the network.